

**DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS
BOARD OF PSYCHOLOGY**

ORDER OF ADOPTION

Effective October 2, 2003, the Board of Psychology hereby amends its regulations in Division 13.1 of Title 16 of the California Code of Regulations to read as follows:

1397.61. Continuing Education Requirements.

(a) Except as provided in section 2915(e) of the Business and Professions Code and section 1397.62 of these regulations, each licensed psychologist shall submit with the application for license renewal proof satisfactory to the board that he or she has completed the continuing education requirements set forth in section 2915 of the code. A licensee who falsifies or makes a material misrepresentation of fact on a renewal application or who cannot verify completion of continuing education by producing verification of attendance certificates, whenever requested to do so by the board, is subject to disciplinary action under section 2960 of the code.

(b) Any person renewing his or her license on or after January 1, 2000 shall provide written evidence of completion of a continuing education course of no less than four hours in length in the subject of laws and ethics for each license renewal cycle. This course shall cover laws and regulations related to the practice of psychology; recent changes/updates in ethics codes and practice; current accepted standards of practice; and application of ethical principles in the independent practice of psychology. It is the responsibility of each licensee to certify, under penalty of perjury, to the completion of this course to the Board of Psychology as indicated on the license renewal application.

(c) Licensees are encouraged to participate in periodic training in subject matter for which the Legislature finds cause, including but not limited to: spousal or partner abuse assessment, detection and intervention; geriatric pharmacology; and the characteristics and methods of assessment and treatment of acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS).

(d) This subsection becomes inoperative effective December 31, 2003. Courses taken on or after January 1, 2002 that are provided by American Psychological Association (APA) approved sponsors shall be accepted for continuing education credit. Any licensee who receives approved continuing education course credit hours from an APA approved sponsor shall submit verification of course completion and the participant reporting fee specified in section 1397.69 to a board recognized accrediting agency.

(e) This subsection becomes inoperative effective December 31, 2003. Courses taken on or after January 1, 2002 that are Continuing Medical Education (CME) courses specifically applicable and pertinent to the practice of psychology and that are accredited by the California Medical Association or the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education shall be accepted for continuing education credit. Any licensee who receives approved continuing education course credit hours from a CME provider shall submit verification of course completion and the participant reporting fee specified in section 1397.69 to a board recognized accrediting agency.

(f) This subsection becomes inoperative effective December 31, 2003. Courses sponsored by the Academies of the specialty boards of the American Board of Professional Psychology (ABPP) shall be accepted for continuing education credit. Any licensee who receives approved continuing education credit from any such course sponsored by an Academy of a specialty board of (ABPP) shall submit verification of course completion and the participant reporting fee specified in section 1397.69 to a board-recognized accrediting agency.

(g) This subsection becomes operative effective January 1, 2004. The Board of Psychology may recognize an entity to perform an accrediting function if the entity:

- 1) Has had at least 10 years experience managing continuing education programs for psychologists on a statewide basis, including, but not limited to:
 - (A) Maintaining and managing records and data related to continuing education programs.
 - (B) Monitoring and approving courses.
- 2) Has a means to avoid a conflict of interest between any provider and accreditation functions.
- 3) Submits a detailed plan of procedures for monitoring and approving the provider functions. The plan must demonstrate that it has the capacity to evaluate each course, including provisions requiring the following:
 - (A) Topics and subject matter shall be pertinent to the practice of psychology. Courses predominantly focused on business issues, marketing, or exploring opportunities for personal growth are not eligible for credit. Course material must have a relevance or direct application to a consumer of psychological services.
 - (B) Each continuing education course shall have written educational goals and specific learning objectives which are measurable and which serve as a basis for an evaluation of the effectiveness of the course.
 - (C) Instructors shall be competent in the subject matter of the course and shall be qualified by education, training, experience, scope of practice and licensure.
 - (D) Each continuing education course shall have a syllabus which provides a general outline of the course.
 - (E) When an approved provider works with others on the development, distribution and/or presentation of a continuing education course (joint sponsorship), there shall be procedures to identify and document the functions of each participating party.
 - (F) An evaluation mechanism shall be completed by each participant to evaluate the continuing education course.
 - (G) Respond to complaints from the board concerning its activities.
 - (H) The entity agency shall provide services to all licensees without discrimination.

(h) Failure of the entity to substantially comply with the provisions as set forth in subsection (g) shall constitute cause for revocation of recognition by the board. Recognition can be revoked only by a formal board action, after notice and hearing, and for good cause.

NOTE: Authority cited: Sections 2915(g) and 2930, Business and Professions Code.
Reference: Sections 29 and 2915, Business and Professions Code.